

Decision 00-12-004 December 7, 2000

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to revise the time schedules for the Rate Case Plan and fuel offset proceedings.

Rulemaking 87-11-012
(Filed November 13, 1987)

(See Decision 89-01-040 for Appearances.)

O P I N I O N

Summary

This decision modifies the Rate Case Plan Decision (D.) 89-01-040 dated January 27, 1989, in Rulemaking (R.) 87-11-012, by requiring future rate design window filings by electric utilities to be docketed under new docket numbers.

Background

D.89-01-040 sets a schedule for San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison Company (Edison), and Pacific Power and Light Company (PP&L) to file proposed electric rate design window revisions, but does not specify that new docket numbers be assigned to the filings. The electric utilities have been filing these applications under the existing docket numbers that have been used for prior rate design window filings. For example, on November 1, 1999, SDG&E filed an application proposing electric rate design window revisions under Application (A.) 91-11-024.

Discussion

Senate Bill (SB) 960 (Stats. 1996, Ch. 856, s1) requires that adjudicatory proceedings be completed within 12 months and encourages the Commission to complete ratesetting and quasi-legislative proceedings within 18 months (See Pub. Util. Code §§ 1701.1 and 1701.2, and Rule 6(e).) Tracking a proceeding for compliance with these deadlines is difficult when the filing is docketed under old docket numbers. Parties should be able to readily monitor and track a proceeding's progress relative to these deadlines. It is reasonable to order new rate design window filings to be filed under new docket numbers, which indicate the month and year of filing. In this manner, the intent of SB 960 that proceedings may be more readily monitored can be more effectively carried out.

Therefore, good cause shown, we find it reasonable to order that future rate design window filings by electric utilities be docketed under new docket numbers.

Comments on Proposed Decision

The proposed decision of ALJ Stalder in this matter was mailed to the parties in accordance with Section 311(d) of the Public Utilities Code and Rule 77.1 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure. No comments were received.

Findings of Fact

1. SB 960 imposed deadlines for handling regulatory proceedings.
2. It is difficult for parties to track rate design window applications for compliance with regulatory deadlines when they are filed under old docket numbers.

Conclusions of Law

1. Rate design window applications should be filed under new docket numbers.
2. This proceeding should be closed.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Rate design window applications by electric utilities shall be filed with new application numbers.
2. This proceeding is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated December 7, 2000, at San Francisco, California.

LORETTA M. LYNCH
President
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
RICHARD A. BILAS
CARL W. WOOD
Commissioners